CLOUD

by Noujou Junichi

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Cloud Ch 3

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...ABOUT CLOUD.
IF YOU AREN'T BUSY AT THE MOMENT... WOULD YOU MIND HAVING A CHAT WITH ME?
WHILE I WAS THERE, AMONG THE THRONGS OF PEDESTRIANS, I NOTICED ONE MAN WHO STOOD OUT FOR NO REASON AT ALL, HE SEEMED TO BE STARING UP AT THE SKY.
ACTUALLY, I WENT DOWN TO THE MAIN DRAG OF AKIHABARA LAST SUNDAY TO BUY A NEW SOCKET.
BUT?
AT FIRST, IT DIDN'T EVEN OCCUR TO ME... BUT...

鞍生人は今、何処に。
鞍生人
くらうと
容疑者
能條純一
The ticket ... ttes ... f the Tokyo Metro System st... nly began behaving abn...rmally. The cause was the malicious hackin... of their network. The suspect of this crime is a man named "Cloud". Is his true intention really to "create a kingdom a... ve the clouds"? Meanwhile, the Public Safety Detective Sudou and Mizoguchi Shouko of the Ja...anese Security Co...rdinati...n Center are trying t... find him, by using their ... ...ective methods, however ... ...ntact with Clou... via an online game... Othello was broken off after Clou... defeated them. However, Sudou managed t... track down Clou... ...mer elementary school teacher, wh... now manages a Chinese restaurant. Searching for clues, he visits the restaurant, but...

8F
SEEING THAT MAN STARING AT THE SKY!.. SOMEHOW I REMEMBERED CLOUD-KUN FROM THE CHILDCARE INSTITUTION, SINCE HE ALWAYS LOOKED AT THE SKY LIKE THAT, TOO.

AND SO, I RETURNED TO THE RESTAURANT AND PREPARED FOR THE AFTERNOON OPENING...

BUT THE CLOUD-KUN THAT I REMEMBERED...

...SO, YOU MET CLOUD AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU...?!

WAS A SMALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOY.

ABOUT AN HOUR AFTER OPENING, I GLANCED OUTSIDE AND HE WAS STANDING THERE. A YOUNG MAN!

HE WAS QUIETLY STARING INSIDE THE RESTAURANT FROM THAT GLASS DOOR THERE.
...THAT YOUNG MAN'S APPEARANCE, YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO REMEMBER HOW HE WAS DRESSED AT LEAST? ANYTHING YOU REMEMBER WOULD HELP.
HE WAS FAIRLY TALL... WEARING A LONG SLEEVED SHIRT... HE HAD LONG HAIR AND I HAVE A VAGUE IMPRESSION OF A LARGE BAG...
EVER SINCE WE OPENED OUR STORE, WE HAVEN'T HAD MANY CUSTOMERS. TODAY WAS REALLY SPECIAL!
THERE WAS NOBODY HERE... UNFORTUNATELY!!
WERE THERE ANY CUSTOMERS HERE AT THE TIME...?!

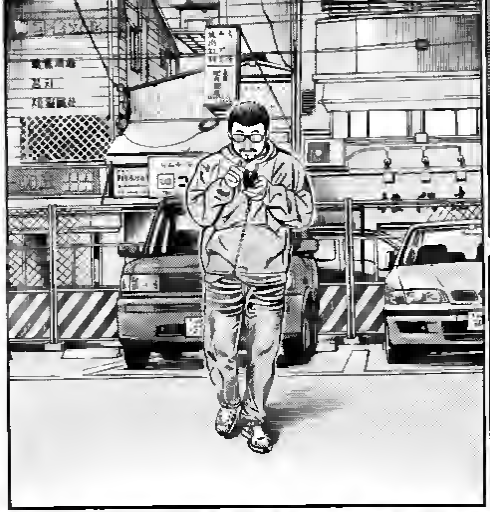
THE METRO HACKER WAS DEFINITELY CLOUD?!
CLOUD?!

WITHOUT A DOUBT. THAT HACKER IS CLOUD!! AND THE REASON HE MESSED WITH THE TURNSTILES... WAS TO HELP HIS OLD TEACHER, NANAKO-SENSEI!!

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND?! I'LL EXPLAIN PROPERLY WHEN WE MEET. HOW'S IT GOING ON YOUR END?
...EXACTLY! TO HELP SAVE NANAKO-SENSEI'S RESTAURANT. BY DISRUPTING THE CROWD FLOW AT THE STATION, HE REDIRECTED PEOPLE IN THIS DIRECTION.

WE FINISHED THE OTHELLO GAME...!! JUST AS YOU TOLD US, SUDOU-SAN, WE TOLD HIM TO GO FIRST..
BUT... WE LOST!! AND THEN WE IMMEDIATELY LOST CONTACT...!!
RING RING
EH?!
THE ONE WHO TAUGHT HIM OTHELLO WAS NANAKO-SENSEI! IT'S DECIDED.
THE HACKER IS DEFINITELY CLOUD!!

YOU HAVE A SUSPECT?! THE POLICE CONTACTED US?
SUDOU-SAN, SEEMS LIKE A SUSPECT HAS SHOWN UP... I DON'T HAVE A CLUE WHO IT IS, YET
WHO IS THE SUSPECT? WHAT DID THE POLICE SAY...?
HIS NAME IS BABA BINPACHI. HE'S A FREE-LANCE PROGRAM-MER WORKING WITH RAILWAY COMPANIES
HIS JOB IS TO TAKE CARE OF THE INTRANET OF EACH STATION... HE WAS IN THE CONTROL ROOM FOR AN INSPEC-TION A FEW DAYS AGO!
THE MAIN-TENANCE DEPARTMENT AT YOUR DIVI-SION HIRES FREELANCE PROGRAM-MERS?!
IT ISN'T CLOUD ...?!
SERI-OUSLY !!



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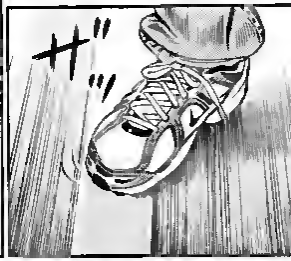
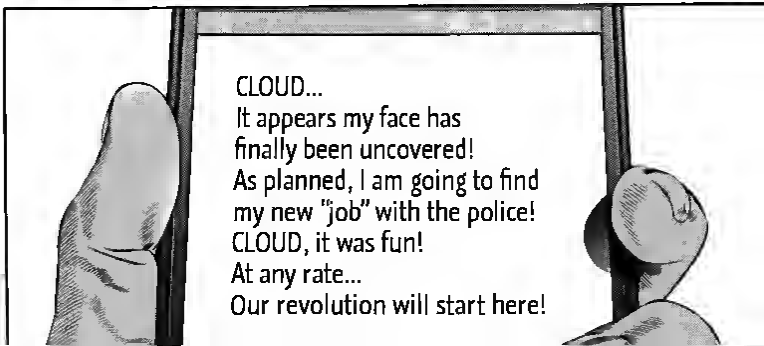
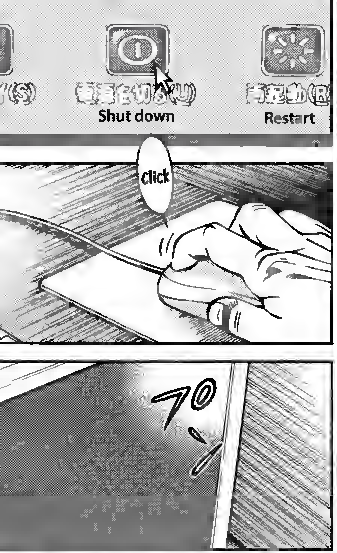
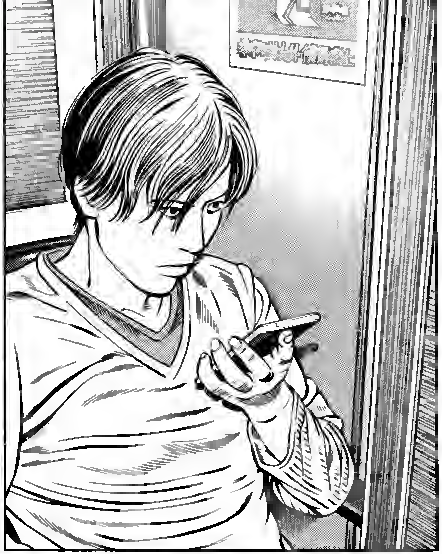


CLOUD...
IT APPEARS MY FACE HAS FINALLY BEEN UNCOVERED!
AS PLANNED, I AM GOING TO FIND MY NEW "JOB" WITH THE POLICE!
CLOUD, IT WAS FUN! AT ANY RATE... OUR REVOLUTION WILL START HERE!


CLOUD...
It appears my face has
finally been uncovered!
As planned, I am going to find
my new "job" with the police!
CLOUD, it was fun!
At any rate...
Our revolution will start here!


Shut down
Restart
click



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CLOUD WAS STARING AT THE SKY SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE..!

WHAT IS.....

WHAT IN THE WORLD WAS HE LOOKING FOR...?!
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カタ

!!
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FAIRLY TALL.. WEARING A LONG SLEEVED SHIRT, LONG HAIR, A LARGE BAG...
CLOUD?!

Beep
beep

ブブブ

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

Sudou-san!! Did you hear me? ...The suspect turned himself in!!

IT APPEARS THE SUSPECT TURNED HIMSELF IN// HE WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO STOP HIS CAR IN FRONT OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE HEAD-QUARTERS...

ヤバッ
HEY YOU! WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE?! NO LOITERING IN FRONT OF THE POLICE HEADQUARTERS!
MY NAME IS BABA SHINPACHI, ALSO KNOWN AS S.B
I'M THE HACKER WHO CAUSED THE CHAOS IN AKIHABARA!!

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11月21日(月)発売!!
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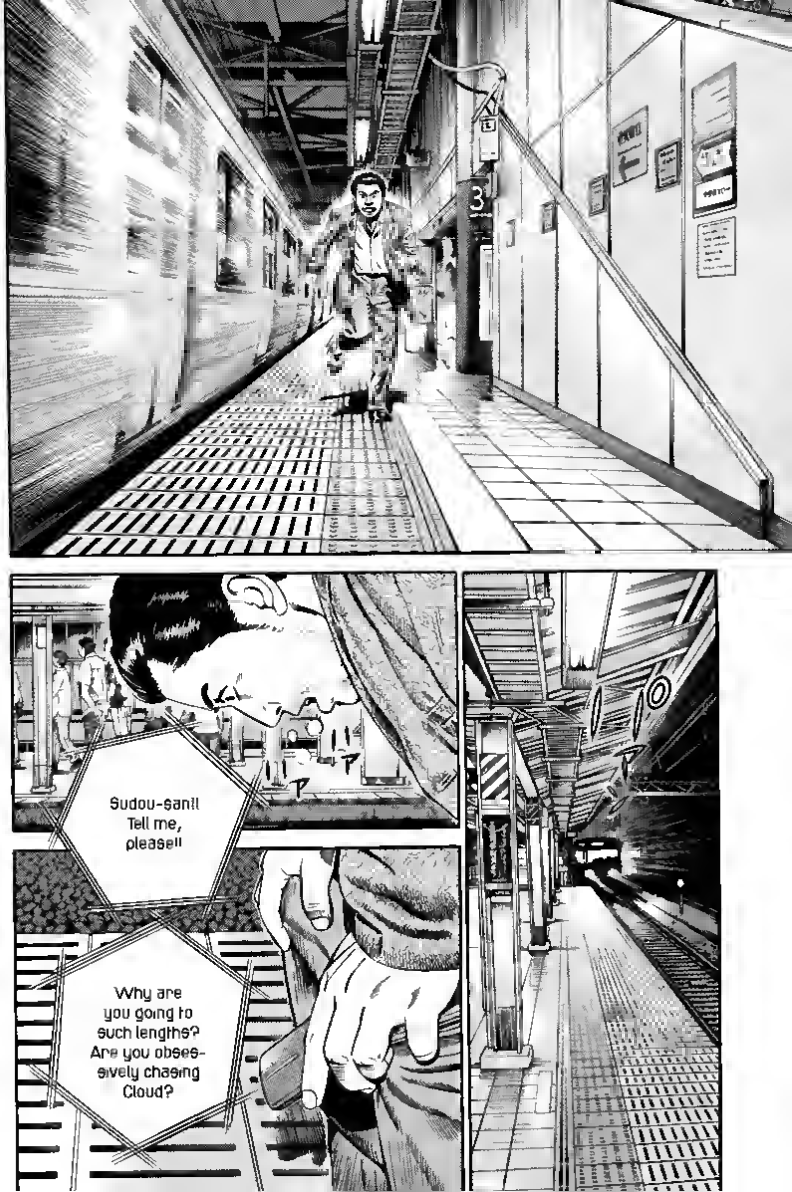
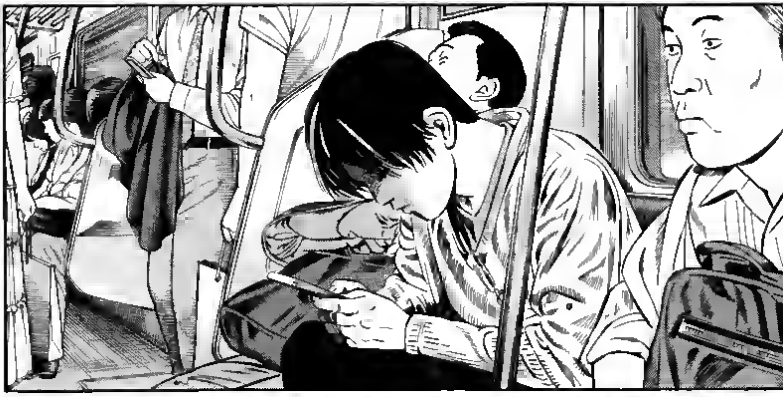
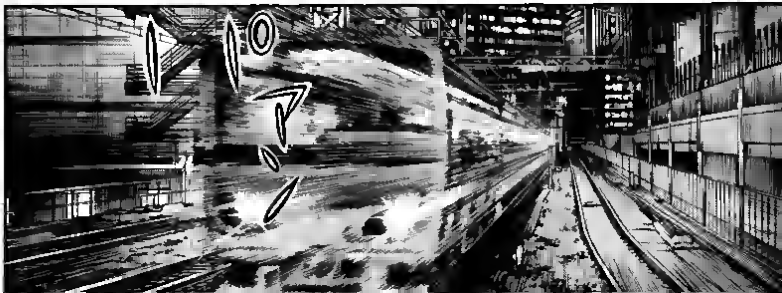
YOU MORON! THE SUS-PECT...
...IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF MY EYES...!

PLAY IN FULL FREEDOM ON TOP OF THE CLOUDS... IN FREEDOM...!!
CLOUD.. YOU ARE CLOUD !!


Sudou-san!! Tell me, please!!
Why are you going to such lengths? Are you obsessively chasing Cloud?

WHY?
Why—?!
Because Cloud is that woman who died with her despair for Japan, Kanou Nobuta's double!!
HE WILL DEFINITELY NOT STOP UNTIL HE HAS LED JAPAN INTO CHAOS!!
AND BECAUSE HE IS THE MAN WHO WILL BRING REVOLUTION TO JAPAN!!

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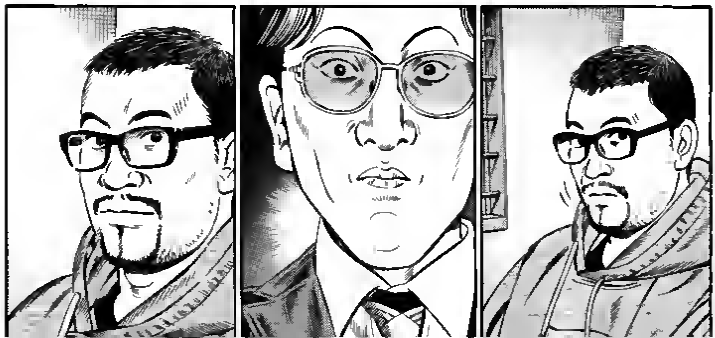
WELL, FRANKLY IT WAS A WARNING TO THE JAPANESE NETWORK SECURITY.
YOU WANT TO KNOW... THE REASON WHY I DECIDED TO DISRUPT THE AKIHABARA STATION NETWORK?
FROM NOW ON, CYBER ATTACKS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD ARE GOING TO TAKE PLACE DAILY IN JAPAN... AND YET, JAPAN'S COUNTER-MEASURES FOR CYBER CRIME ARE PATHETI-CALLY BEHIND THE TIMES...
FARCE...?! IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK? YOU PEOPLE COULDN'T DO A THING TO COUNTER THAT "FARCE"!! AM I WRONG?
JUST TO LET US KNOW ABOUT YOUR AWESOME HACKING SKILLS?!
SO... YOU PLANNED OUT THIS FARCE...

HEH... HE ONLY HACKED THE NETWORK TO SCORE A JOB IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE CYBER CRIME COUNTER MEASURES SQUAD!
BABA BINPACHI... A FREELANCE PROGRAMMER WORKING FOR THE RAILROADS. A LOSER STUCK IN A DEAD END LIFE.

Metropolitan Police, [Cyber crime counter measures department], section chief, Kusaka Betakeshi.
THAT GUY'S JUST THE STRAWMAN OF THE REAL PERPETRATOR JUST LOOK AT THIS LOSER.
SECTION CHIEF... IS THIS GUY REALLY TELLING THE TRUTH?



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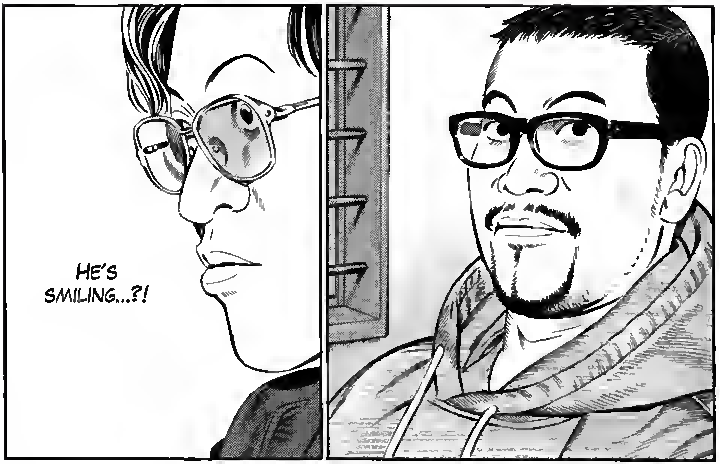

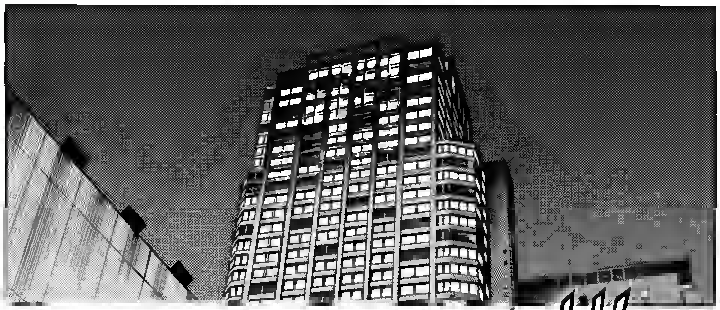

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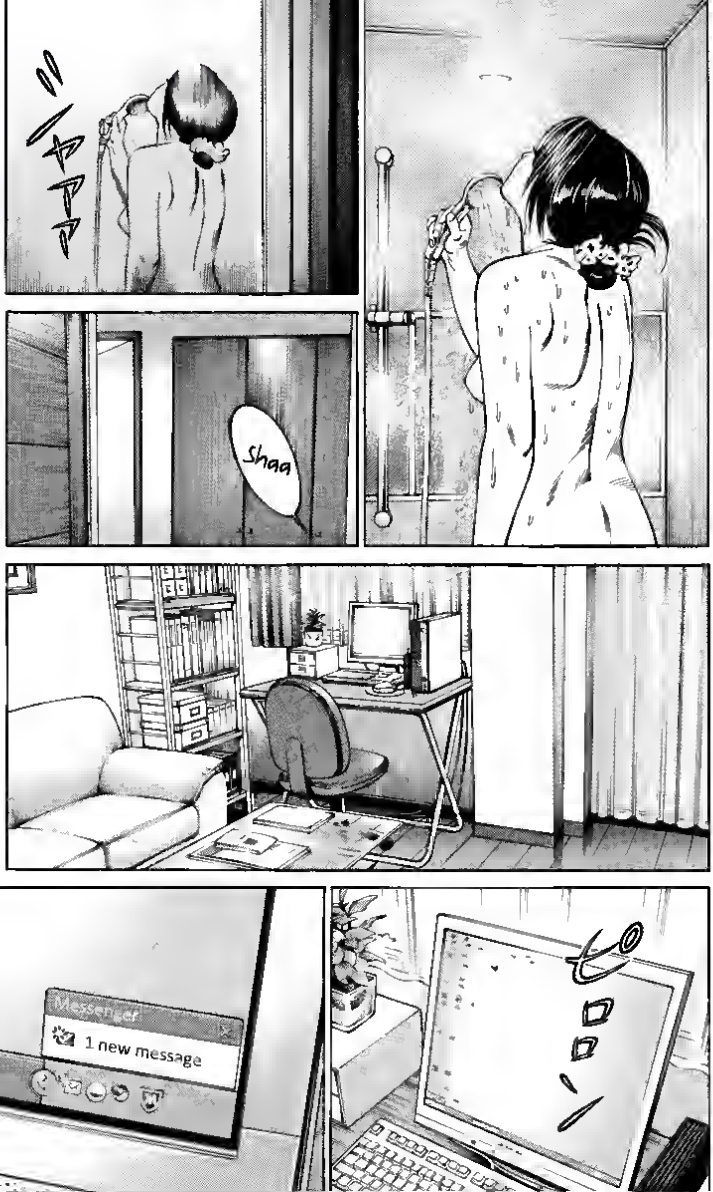
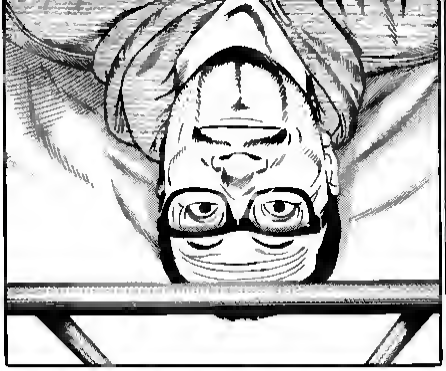
No new messages
カチ


ハァハァ
Shaa
Messenger
1 new message
ピロン

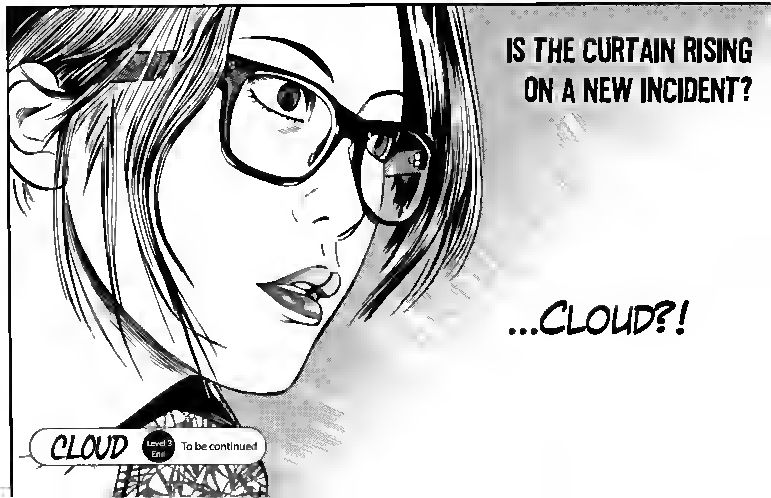


CLOUD... IF IT'S YOU, YOU CAN DO IT...!!
CLOUD, LET'S ENJOY OURSELVES FURTHER! LET'S MESS UP JAPAN AND THEN, THE REVOLUTION ..!

Messenger
1 new message

To:

Let's play...


IS THE CURTAIN RISING ON A NEW INCIDENT?
...CLOUD?!
CLOUD
Level 2 End
To be continued

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